

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for his consideration of this case. The recent indication that claims 74-78 are allowed is acknowledged with appreciation. The prior indication that claims 1-64 are allowed is also acknowledged with appreciation. Claims 65-73 are believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

The Office Action contends that the term “the deterioration” lacks antecedent basis. Although Applicants respectfully disagree, in the interest of compact prosecution, claim 65 has been amended. In particular, the term “the deterioration” has been amended to read “deterioration.” Therefore, the rejection of claim 65 and dependent claims 66-73 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned. In the event that any further fees are due, please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 50-3211 (21204.0165RI).

Respectfully submitted,

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